

Top Secret



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

ARMY and DOS review(s) completed.

DIA REVIEW COMPLETED

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Information as of 1600
28 July 1967

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HIGHLIGHTS

The US Marine force which moved into the southern half of the Demilitarized Zone on 28 July has reported no contact with the enemy thus far.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam: A three-company US Marine force moved north from Con Thien into the southern half of the Demilitarized Zone on 28 July in an effort to root out enemy mortar and artillery positions (Para. 1). The Viet Cong 5th Division reportedly has been reinforced with an 1,800-man North Vietnamese Army artillery regiment (Paras. 2-4).

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tion on the current status and intentions of the 5th North Vietnamese Army Division in Phu Yen Province (Paras. 5-9).

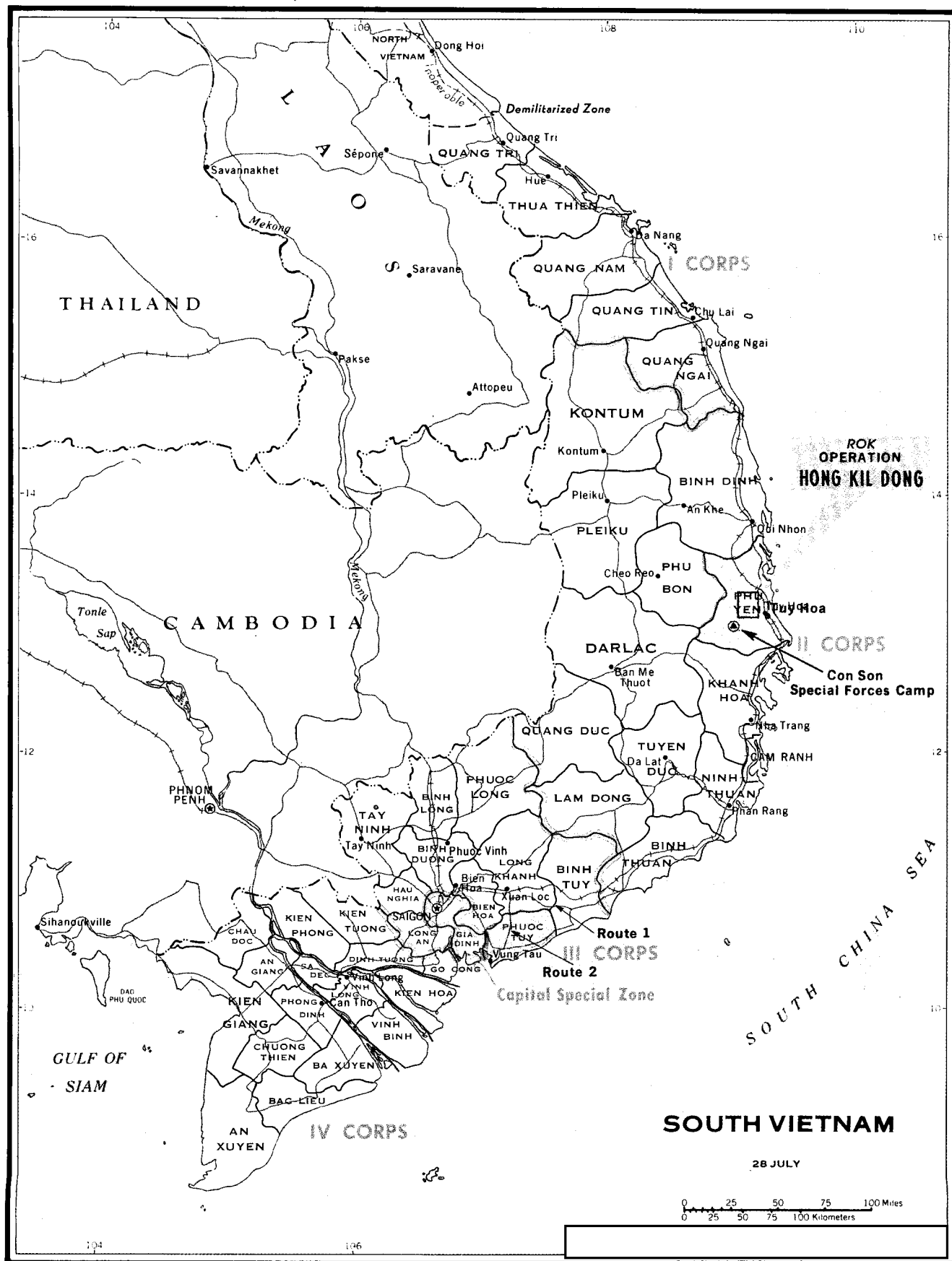
II. Political Developments in South Vietnam: Phan Khac Suu's campaign organization is reportedly quite extensive (Para. 1). Premier Ky's personal representative on the joint Thieu-Ky campaign committee is critical of the lack of contributions by Thieu's followers (Para. 2).

III. Military Developments in North Vietnam: There is nothing of significance to report.

IV. Other Communist Military Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments: Recent press reports relating to a change in the Soviet position on ending the Vietnam war have not been confirmed (Paras. 1-2).

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. A three-company US Marine force, part of Operation KINGFISHER, moved north from Con Thien into the southern half of the Demilitarized Zone on 28 July in an effort to root out North Vietnamese mortar and artillery positions. No contact with the enemy has been reported so far. This is the first allied penetration of the Demilitarized Zone since late May. At that time, Marines and South Vietnamese paratroopers swept through the southeastern portion of the zone in force. Elsewhere in the country on 28 July, only scattered, small-unit enemy contacts were reported.

New Artillery Regiment Reported for the Viet Cong 5th Division

2. The newly formed third regiment in the Viet Cong 5th Division is an 1,800-man North Vietnamese Army artillery unit, [REDACTED]

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There have been a number of reports in recent weeks of North Vietnamese reinforcements for the 5th, but this is the first indication that the new troops form an artillery regiment.

3. The weapons most likely to be used by such a unit would be mortars and possibly Soviet-made rockets. The Communists have not yet used rockets in southeastern III Corps, the 5th Division's operational area, but Soviet-made 122-mm. rockets were used by the enemy on 11 May and 26 July in attacks against Bien Hoa and Phuoc Vinh in central III Corps.

4. The Viet Cong 5th Division's subordinate 274th and 275th regiments have become increasingly active during the past few weeks and have had several sharp battles with South Vietnamese Rangers and the US 11th Armored Cavalry. [REDACTED] the 5th Division intends to make additional attacks this summer along Routes 1 and 2 in an effort to reassert Viet Cong control in the southeastern III Corps area.

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Status of 5th NVA Division

[redacted]
[redacted] provide new information on the status and future operational plans of elements of the North Vietnamese Army 5th Division in Phu Yen Province.

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6. The 95th Regiment, the 5th Division's principal subordinate operating in Phu Yen Province, was heavily resupplied and reinforced with additional troops between February and May 1967, according to

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[redacted] captured recently near the allied Special Forces camp at Con Son in south-central Phu Yen indicates that on 18 May the 95th's 4th and 5th Battalions received 720 uniforms along with considerable quantities of khaki and nylon cloth. The present accepted strength of the 95th Regiment in MACV's order of battle holdings is 1,700.

7. Some insight into the offensive plans of the 95th Regiment in Phu Yen Province has been gleaned from documents dated 16 March and 13 May 1967. The documents indicated that, following a 20-day training program in June for probable newly arrived replacements, all three battalions of the regiment were to begin widespread raids and ambushes. The main objective of the Communist's 1967 "summer campaign" in Phu Yen, according to these documents, is to disrupt South Vietnam's Revolutionary Development program. The documents say that only in this way can the Communists solve such immediate and long-range problems as manpower and food supply.

8. The military strategy necessary to achieve this objective reportedly centers on actions designed to force a widespread dispersal of allied troops, coupled with annihilation attacks on isolated units.

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Company-size enemy units are to operate independently, while simultaneously preparing for possible battalion-size attacks against targets of opportunity in the future. Multibattalion or regimental-size operations, however, are not to be undertaken without reinforcement from units outside the province.

9. Allied spoiling campaigns, such as the South Korean Operation HONG KIL DONG, which has killed 337 enemy in the Tuy Hoa area since it began on 8 July, have thus far prevented major elements of the 95th Regiment from going on the offensive in critical regions of Phu Yen Province.

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Dr. Phan Quang Dan, the vice-presidential running mate of Phan Khac Suu, recently told a US Embassy officer that their campaign organization already includes representatives in all of South Vietnam's 44 provinces. Dan said that his campaign plans, which he characterized as more extensive than those of the other candidates, are the result of four months of hard work by himself and a few colleagues. Dan added that Suu is prepared to designate a military man as his prime minister.

Thieu-Ky Campaign Committee

2. As the 3 August deadline for preparing platforms and campaign materials approaches, Ky's campaign manager, Social Welfare Minister Phong, is pessimistic about the work done to date by the joint Thieu-Ky campaign committee. Phong claims that Thieu's campaign staff has contributed nothing to the formulation of a political platform and alleges that Thieu's own work has often been counterproductive. Although there may be some truth in Phong's comments, his sniping at Thieu is probably symptomatic of the relationship between the Ky and Thieu camps.

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III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. The counselor at the Japanese Embassy in Moscow claims there were no new Soviet pronouncements on Vietnam during the recent visit of Japanese Foreign Minister Miki. A Japanese press story on 26 July implied that the Soviets had indicated to Miki that, if the US unconditionally halted its bombing of North Vietnam, they would try to find a solution to the war, even at the cost of a diplomatic break with China.

2. US Ambassador Gronouski in Warsaw has also reported that he tried repeatedly and without success to elicit from Miki, who is in Poland, any new Soviet position on Vietnam. Miki told Gronouski that both the Soviets and the Poles said that the key to negotiations is the cessation of US bombing of North Vietnam. Both were noncommittal when asked how the North Vietnamese would respond to such a move.

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